# Fort Detrick spokesman denies knowledge of deadly CIA toxin

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Army spokesman Ernest P. Magaha Jr. said Tuesday it is highly unlikely that two containers of a mass poison developed by the Central Intelligence Agency were found stored in a warehouse at Ft. Detrick in apparent violation of a presidential order as alleged in a New York Times report Tuesday morning.

"It is hard to conceive that this would happen without me being at least marginally aware of it," said the spokesman for the Army garrison.

**EDITORS NOTE:**

**Sen. Frank Church, (D-Idaho) announced Tuesday that the poisons were not stored at Fort Detrick.**

The reports published Tuesday claimed that a middle-level CIA employe preserved the two containers of a toxin derived from shellfish from destruction because the employe disagreed with President Nixon's "spears to plowshares" announcement of 1969 dedicating the former Biological Warfare laboratories to a new war on cancer.

According to the reports, the discovery

See DETRICK, page A-12

## Detrick

(Continued From Page A-1)

has touched off a new avenue of investigation by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence chaired by Sen. Frank Church (D., Idaho).

But Magaha reported Tuesday that "nobody on the garrison staff is aware of any such discovery" as reported and said he is certain that none of the garrison's warehouses are being used by the CIA.

Magaha said he would not go so far as to say such a discovery at Ft. Detrick is impossible, but emphasized that the reports are highly improbable.

The Army spokesman said the garrison command would be in a position to know if any of the garrison's warehouses were being put to use to store poisons for the CIA, but emphasized the garrison's command has no knowledge of any such occurrence.